Sub-Element 6.d— Transportation and Treatment of Contaminated Individuals

What the Policy Says

Intent

NUREG-0654 provides that OROs should have the capability to transport contaminated injured individuals to medical facilities with the capability to provide medical services.

Criterion 6.d.1: The facility/ORO has the appropriate space, adequate resources, and trained personnel to provide transport, monitoring, decontamination, and medical services to contaminated injured individuals. (NUREG-0654, F.2; H.10; K.5.a, b; L.1, 4).

Minimum Frequency

Criterion 6.d.1 is to be evaluated every exercise.

Extent of Play

Monitoring, decontamination, and contamination control efforts will not delay urgent medical care for the victim.

Offsite Response Organizations (ORO) should demonstrate the capability to transport contaminated injured individuals to medical facilities. An ambulance should be used for the response to the victim. However, to avoid taking an ambulance out of service for an extended time, any vehicle (for example, car, truck, or van) may be used to transport the victim to the medical facility. Normal communications between the ambulance/dispatcher and the receiving medical facility should be demonstrated. If a substitute vehicle is used for transport to the medical facility, this communication must occur before releasing the ambulance from the drill. This communication would include reporting radiation monitoring results, if available. Additionally, the ambulance crew should demonstrate, by interview, knowledge of where the ambulance and crew would be monitored and decontaminated, if required, or whom to contact for such information.

Monitoring of the victim may be performed before transport, done en route, or deferred to the medical facility. Before using a monitoring instrument(s), the monitor(s) should demonstrate the process of checking the instrument(s) for proper operation. All monitoring activities should be completed as they would be in an actual emergency. Appropriate contamination control measures should be demonstrated before and during transport and at the receiving medical facility.

The medical facility should demonstrate the capability to activate and set up a radiological emergency area for treatment. Equipment and supplies should be available for the treatment of contaminated injured individuals.

The medical facility should demonstrate the capability to make decisions on the need for decontamination of the individual, to follow appropriate decontamination procedures, and to maintain records of all survey measurements and samples taken. All procedures for the collection and analysis of samples and the decontamination of the individual should be demonstrated or described to the evaluator.

All activities associated with this criterion must be based on the ORO's plans and procedures and completed as they would be in an actual emergency, unless noted above or otherwise indicated in the extent of play agreement.

Preparing to Evaluate This Criterion

Before the exercise, determine, according to the ORO's plan/procedures and the Extent of Play agreement:

- What organization will demonstrate the capability to transport contaminated, injured individuals to the appropriate medical facilities?
- How is the hospital notified to establish a Radiological Emergency Area (REA)?
- What equipment and supplies are available in the REA?
- What information will be provided to the medical facility by the ambulance crew?
- Are procedures in place to ensure that when the (simulated) contaminated, injured evacuee arrives, urgent medical care takes precedence over monitoring, decontamination, and contamination control efforts by facility medical staff?
- What methods will be used to decontaminate the potentially contaminated victim (once he/she is medically stabilized)?
- What contamination control measures are used by the medical facility?
- What instruments will be used by the medical facility to monitor the evacuee for contamination? (Manufacturer's Name/Model Number)
- What procedures do medical staff (or the ORO) use to ensure that monitoring instruments are operational?
- What action level will trigger the need for decontamination of the contaminated evacuee?
- What methods will be used to collect and analyze samples including swabs and skin wipes?
- Where and by whom will the ambulance crew and ambulance (or other transport vehicle) be monitored and decontaminated if required?

During the Exercise

During the exercise, in addition to evaluating activities related to the items listed above, be sure to:

- Note what type of vehicle was used for the transportation of the contaminated injured?
- Note whether medical care took priority over monitoring, decontamination, and contamination control efforts.
- Note when and by whom the victim was monitored for contamination.
- Observe and document communications between the medical transport crew and the receiving hospital. Note if accident scene survey records were transferred to the medical facility staff.
- Determine the knowledge of the medical transport crew concerning where the ambulance (or other transport vehicle) and crew would be monitored and decontaminated.
- Document contamination control measures taken by the medical transport crew and at the hospital.
- Document instrumentation used by the medical transport crew and at the hospital. Note whether instruments were operationally checked (if pertinent).
- Note whether records of all survey measurements and samples taken were kept.